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News Release

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the sentencing yesterday, of Cornelius Lester, age 44, of Richmond, Virginia, by the Honorable Robert E. Payne, to 150 months of imprisonment as a result of his April 7, 2003, plea of guilty under the federal Hobbs Act to one count of robbery.

On August 10, 2002, he entered the Golden Market in Richmond and attempted to rob the store owner of money. Lester was armed during the attempt and fired his gun, striking the owner in the hand.

Also announcing the sentence are Scott L. Sammis, Resident Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and Andre Parker, Chief of Police, Richmond Police Department.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the Richmond Police Department, and prosecuted by Shannon L. Taylor, Special Assistant United States Attorney.